that the objection comes from a Panchayat Member who has a car. Everybody knows that it is easy for a Panchayat Member to get as many as 2000 signatures to a petition and of these 2000 only 2 or three might have got carts.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ (*Ezhuvas North*).—സർ, ഈ പുതിയ ചുങ്കം മൂലം ഗവൺമെൻറിനു പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു് വല്ല ആദായവുമുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*).—Not this year.

Contractor, Bolghatty—Ernakulam Ferry—Complaints against.

112. Mr. P. Sankunni Menon (*Elankunnapuzha*).—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether they are aware that the Bolghatty—Ernakulam Ferry Contractor is making undue exactions from the passengers on the things carried by them;

(2) has it ever been brought to the notice of the Government that the contractor is deliberately avoiding the notification of the rates and the maintenance of balance and weights as required by the rules;

(3) has the Government at any time deemed it necessary to compel the Ferry Contractor to maintain a board notifying the rates and also balance and weights with a view to stop the undue exactions;

(4) has the Government taken any steps regarding the various complaints that have been made against the contractor; if so, what are the steps taken;

(5) is the Government aware that the ferry boat capsized on 5th October 1937 while approaching the Ernakulam ferry jetty; if so, has the Government taken any steps against the contractor?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*).—(1) No.

(2) Yes. A petition has been received in the matter.

(3) Yes. Instructions have been issued to the contractor in the matter.

(4) Yes. They are being enquired into in detail.

(5) Yes. No steps are called for against the contractor since it has been found that he was not at fault.

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Mr. P. Sankunni Menon (*Elankunnapuzha*).—May I know who was at fault?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishar*).—I made a surprise visit to the ferry at the time when the school boat was coming and I say the general tendency among school boys and girls—this tendency is not peculiar to these boys, and children everywhere—to go to the front portion and further each one wants to get down first. My information is that it was an accident. It was said that one of the boys threatened some girls that he would capsize the boat one day and it seems he was successful.

Mr. P. Sakunni Menon (*Elankunnapuzha*).—Did not all the people fall into the water?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*).—No. As I was saying it was a dangerous experiment to try and therefore I wrote to the Police Commissioner to post a policeman there when the school-boat comes to have an eye on the boys.

Mr. P. Sankunni Menon (*Elankunnapuzha*).—Did not they fall in the water?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*).—At any rate, they did not fall. But there was an accident.

Diseases—Cocoanut trees in the State—Remedy for.

113. **Mr. A. Narayana Menon** (*Vyttila*).—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether they are aware of diseases for cocoanut trees in the State;

(2) whether they have made any estimate of the extent to which trees have been infected with the diseases; if so, to what extent and in which areas; when was it done; what is the present position of the infection;

(3) whether any investigation as to the cause of the diseases has been made in the State; if so, by whom and when and with what results; was any outside agency consulted; has any remedy been found out; if so, what;

(4) has there been any appreciable check to the spread of the diseases; if so, in what shape;

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